

God's Plan of Salvation:

1. Hear - Romans 10:17
2. Believe - Mark 16:16
3. Repent - Acts 2:38
4. Confess - Romans 10:10
5. Be baptized - Acts 22:16
6. Live faithfully - Revelation 2:10

Announcements:

Sick: Mrs. Calvert, Ms. Dannels, Mrs. Douglas, Mr. Hadley, Ms. Kim (Ashley Law's mother), Lamar Mathis, Mr. and Mrs. Pete Newsome, Mrs. Owens, Mrs. Siota, Ms. Ward, Mr. Winns.

If you would be interested in any of the following ways to study the Bible, feel free to let us know:

- Home Bible Study - We will come into your home or other place you feel comfortable and study the Bible with you. Bible questions are welcome in these studies and we will seek to give a Bible answer.
- Correspondence courses - We will be glad to mail you a correspondence lesson that you can fill out and mail back to us and we will send you the next lesson.
- Call us with your Bible question - #503-707-6014.
- Visit our website: [www.oakgrovechurchofchristjenningsflorida.com](http://www.oakgrovechurchofchristjenningsflorida.com)
- Come and visit - We always strive to have good, practical Bible instruction at each of our assemblies.

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# Why I Believe in God?

By Derek Long

God is an unseen being (John 1:18; 1 John 4:12; 1 Timothy 1:17; 6:16). The Bible speaks about God appearing to individuals at certain times (like Moses) but these individuals did not see God as He is but saw manifestations of God it appears. In Exodus 33:18-23, Moses was allowed to see the back of God but not His face. In light of the fact God cannot be seen our acceptance of His existence will be based upon faith built upon evidence God has provided us of His existence (Hebrews 11:1-3; 2 Corinthians 5:7).

Some people struggle with the notion of believing in something they cannot see or perceive through their natural senses (sight, hear, taste, feel, smell). However, it is common for individuals to accept things as being real which they have never actually seen or experienced for themselves. A person may believe a certain place exists in the world although he/she has never been there before. A person may believe in the existence of the wind although a person cannot see the wind itself but simply see the effects of the wind (John 3:8). A person may believe certain individuals are their relatives but they may not have witnessed the event which made them related to these individuals. For example, to people may believe they are siblings without the younger sibling being present at the birth of the older sibling to know he had the same father and mother. In other words, people generally accept things as true without strict empirical evidence at times to substantiate the truthfulness of a certain belief. When it comes to one's belief in the existence or non-existence of God, we must do the same sort of thing.

I believe in the existence of God because the creation I see around me tells me there must be a Creator. Psalm 19:1 and Romans 1:20 both speak about the fact that the creation testifies to the fact there must be a Creator. One can observe the physical creation around them and must come to one of two conclusions: 1. either physical matter is eternal and has always been here, or 2. some non-physical being brought the physical matter around us into existence. If physical matter is all that existed throughout eternity, then how can one account for the development of intelligence, reasoning ability, etc.?

I believe in the existence of God because of the incredible design found in the creation around me demands a designer. The human body, animal kingdom, plants, etc. all possess design. It would be unreasonable to think design happened without a designer.

I believe in the existence of God because without God one cannot have a universal moral standard. One of the big objections to God's existence made by some individuals is the fact there is evil and unjust suffering in the world around us. However, how does one determine what is evil or unjust if there is no moral lawgiver greater than the individual, society, etc.? The book of Judges describes a time where everyone did what was right in his own eyes and it was not a pretty time in history (Judges 17:6; 21:25). One cannot complain about the problem of evil and at the same time reject the One who defines what good and evil is. The person who fails to believe in God is forced to concede, as far as I can tell, that is moral standards are really nothing more than his own personal preferences. If moral standards are nothing more than an individual's personal preferences, then how is one capable of saying the actions of someone else are wrong if it was in accordance with his personal standards of morality. If one argues morality is determined by culture or society, you still run into the same problem. How can a person from one society or culture judge another society or culture's actions if there is no absolute standard all individuals are held accountable to?

I believe in the existence of God because of the overwhelming evidence for Jesus Christ and especially His resurrection from the dead. It is conceded by almost everyone that Jesus of Nazareth is a real historical character. Historical testimony for Jesus' existence is

contained in the gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John as well as in other writings from ancient non-Christian sources. The question of who is Jesus is one of importance and one which everyone needs to give consideration to (Matthew 16:13-16). Jesus, based upon the eyewitness testimony of men like John, a Roman centurion, the Jewish rulers who opposed Christianity, etc. was crucified. It is also admitted by both the enemies and followers of Christ that Jesus' tomb was found empty. A person must give consideration to how the tomb of Jesus became empty. The most reasonable explanation for the empty tomb, in my opinion, is that Jesus was raised from the dead. If Jesus was raised from the dead, then such verifies all the claims He made about God while He was upon the earth and can serve as the basis for one's belief in the existence of the God revealed in the Bible.